

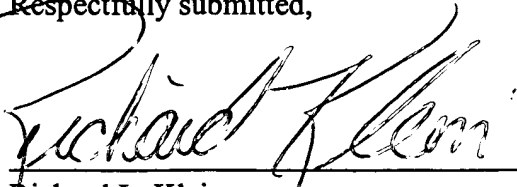
REMARKS

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/478,192 for which applicants have received Notice of Allowability.

Applicants respectfully submit claims 16-33 directed to a stent delivery system wherein, during intraluminal delivery of the device to the treatment site, the stent is retained on the balloon by the balloon itself. More specifically, the stent of Applicants' device is crimped onto the balloon of an angioplasty or stent delivery catheter. The stent is retained on the balloon by portions of the balloon which have a larger diameter than the interior diameter of the crimped stent. Such portions of the balloon may be along the length of the balloon, thereby protruding into the interstices of the stent. Alternatively, the larger diameter portions of the balloon may be at the ends of the balloon, which extend beyond the ends of the stent. Or, the larger diameter portions of the balloon may be both along the length of the balloon and at the ends of the balloon. Consequently, such portions of the balloon function to retain the stent on the balloon.

The prior art discloses numerous structures designed to retain a stent on a balloon during intraluminal delivery of the stent to the site of treatment. For example, sheaths or sleeves, caps, retaining rings, bands and similar structures are disclosed in the prior art. Applicants are aware of no prior art which is considered to anticipate Applicants' claimed invention. Therefore, examination and allowance of Applicants' claims is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Richard L. Klein". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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